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Japan should follow suit! Yet every one of these countries publishes nearly as much, and several of them more, first class botanical work than is produced in America. How much good would it do American or German or French botanists to have an elaborate year-book in Russian, Polish, Hungarian or Japanese?

To Americans such a bibliography as that proposed by Mr. Bay would be of little value since they are generally well acquainted with the literature as it issues. To foreigners it would simply call for an extra expense to obtain in an unfamiliar tongue what they have a right to expect to find in Botanisches Centralblatt or Bot. Jahresbericht. If the year-book is to reach the widest circle of readers abroad; it should by all means be issued in German or French, or be translated as soon as possible after publication as are Famintzin's *Uebersichten über die Leistungen auf dem Gebiete der Botanik in Russland.*

It is very doubtful whether a publisher could be obtained for such a year-report in German or French unless the author would assume the financial responsibility.

If the work is to obtain the greatest confidence it should be conducted under the auspices of some society or association of recognized standing. Famintzin's reports mentioned above are published by order of the Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg, the highest scientific body in Russia.

It seems very clear to me that the energy required to carry out the project outlined by Mr. Bay might be spent in some more profitable manner. For instance, prompt and full reviews of American papers might be sent to Botanisches Centralblatt, and authors wishing their papers noticed in Botanischer Jahresbericht could send copies of them to Prof. Kœhne. Of course some persons might feel aggrieved that their second or third rate paper did not receive a highly complimentary two-page notice and might long for a more sympathetic review organ of our own, yet such reasons are hardly sufficient to warrant the outlay of time and money proposed.

It should be remembered that outside of Germany purely bibliographic journals and reports have almost uniformly failed after a few years of precarious existence.

If then French and Italian botanists and American zoologists are able to do without such a year-book it seems quite probable that our own need of such a work is more fancied than real.—W. T. Swingle, *U. S. Department of Agriculture, Subtropical Laboratory, Eustis, Florida.*

NOTES AND NEWS.

Prof. J. E. Humphrey, formerly of the Agricultural Experiment Station of Massachusetts, intends to spend the coming year in Strasburger's laboratory at Bonn.

In the January number of the current volume of the *Forstlich-naturwissenschaftliche Zeitschrift* Dr. F. Ludwig describes a new slime flux caused by one of the discomycetes which he says is identical with *Ascobolus Costantini* Roll.—L. S. C.

THE LIFE and works of Dr. George Vasey are treated in an appreciative article by Dr. Wm. Frear in the June number of *Agricultural Science*, accompanied by a portrait.

MR. RODNEY H. TRUE, lately Fellow in Botany at the University of Wisconsin, has sailed for Germany, where he intends devoting especial attention to vegetable physiology under Pfeffer and others.

A STRIKING illustration of the value of pure culture methods in the study of fungi is furnished by results obtained by Dr. H. Klebahn of Bremen.[1] In an investigation of the pine rust he was enabled to identify six distinct species, all of which had been referred by most authors preceding him to a single species, *Peridermium Pini* (Willd.) Kleb.—L. S. C.

MATURE PERITHECIA of the European grape mildew, *Oidium Tuckeri*, were found in France last November, by G. Conderc (*Compt. rend.* CXVI. 1893, 210), and prove the long suspected identity of the European and American forms. DeBary expressed the opinion in 1875 that the European oidium was the conidial state of the American *Uncinula spiralis*, but it has not been possible before to establish the fact.

THAT SUNDEWS can capture butterflies seems almost incredible, but Prof. J. W. H. Trail in the July *Annals of Scottish Natural History*, records observing upwards of a dozen of the small heath butterfly, Caenonympha Pamphilus, some dead and others struggling violently, which had been caught by the little Drosera Anglica, near Aberdeen, Scotland. These were all seen at one time within an area of a few square rods, although a few single instances had been previously observed.

A NEW SERIES of *fungi exsiccati* is announced by J. B. Ellis and B. M. Everhart to be entitled *Fungi Columbiani*, the first century to be ready by the end of the year. It will include only fungi that have already appeared in the issues of the North American Fungi, and is thus a kind of second edition of that work, but does not embrace all the numbers. The first work has now reached the twenty-ninth century, but many of the earlier volumes are exhausted. The proposed series will be distributed in loose packets, and sold at a somewhat lower price than the other.

A CORRECTION —In the GAZETTE for September, in speaking of the botanical exhibit made by the agricultural colleges and experiment stations at the Chicago Exposition, it was stated that the part showing diseases of garden crops and fruits was prepared by Prof. Tracy. A note from Prof. Tracy requests us to say that this section of the exhibit was not prepared by him, but that the sheets showing diseases of garden crops were from Profs. Chester and Jones, while those showing miscellaneous diseases of fruits were from Profs. Alwood and Humphrey, and the fine collection of Gymnosporangia was sent by Prof. Thaxter.

THE MEMBERSHIP of the Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science was increased at the Madison meeting by the election of twenty-one additional members, including the following botanists: H. L. Bolley, Fargo, N. D.; E. F. Smith, Washington, D. C.; F. D.

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[1] Kulturversuche mit heteröcischen Uredineen. Forstl.-naturw. Zeits. II. 69.

Chester, Newark, Del.; L. R. Jones, Burlington, Vt.; L. H. Pammel, Ames, Iowa, and S. A. Beach, Geneva, N. Y. The membership of the society is carefully restricted, numbering forty-two for the last year, with a limit of fifty. The limit is now extended to 100. The increase in the society naturally follows the increased interest in agricultural science, and promises to add greatly to the society's usefulness.

DR. ROBERT HARTIG[1] has recently investigated the splitting of olive trees, in Italian orchards. He concludes that the so-called splitting is due to the decay of the tissues occasioned by the attacks of *Polyporus fulvus* Scop. var. *Oleæ* Scop. The spores of this fungus gain access to the inner tissues of the tree through wounds; there they germinate, sending hyphæ in all directions, especially up and down the stem and toward its center by way of the medullary rays. A white rot rapidly follows in the path of the fungus. In many cases wounds occur on approximately opposite points on the stem. Where infection takes place in both of these the decay and falling away of the tissues progresses from both to the center, resulting eventually in the formation of an irregular opening through the trunk with sound wood on either side of it.—L. S. C.

THE LAST NUMBER of the *Journal of Mycology* is unusually heavy, containing one hundred and fifty pages and fourteeen plates. The articles are substantial and contain much valuable data. The articles embracing experimental data are upon wheat rust by B. T. Galloway, peach rosette by E. F. Smith, Cercospora disease of almonds by N. B. Pierce, leaf diseases of nursery stock by D. G. Fairchild, removal of lichens from tree trunks by M. B. Waite, of which the last is especially noteworthy as a new application of the useful Bordeaux mixture. Descriptions of new species of fungi are recorded by J. B. Ellis and S. M. Tracy, and reprint of descriptions from the Connecticut Station reports with additional remarks by Roland Thaxter. Notes on fossil fungi by Jos. F. James, notices of recent literature, and 349 additional entries in the index to literature complete the contents.

THE SOCIETY for the Promotion of Agricultural Science held a successful meeting in Madison, August 15th and 16th. Not as many botanical papers were presented as usual, although more than half the members present were botanists. Prof. C. E. Bessey gave an account of the distribution and abundance of the various species of weeds of Nebraska. Prof. Geo. F. Atkinson described and exhibited illustrations of a new disease (œdema) of apple, forming blisters upon the bark of the younger shoots. Prof. J. C. Arthur spoke of an important law affecting improvement of crops, by which any increase in cultivation, food supply, or other means of accelerating growth, except use of larger seed, increases the vegetative part of the plant more in proportion than the reproductive. A paper was read (in the absence of the author) from W. G. Farlow, upon the occurrence of white huckleberries, mentioning the previously known occurrence of albino forms, and describing his successful search for the white and spotted forms which have been known in Europe but never before recorded from America. He also determined that the change of color in the latter is due to a fungus, probably the same as the European one.

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[1] Die Spaltung der Oelbäume. Forstl naturw. Zeits. II. 57.